



Building Fluency at Home

Family Paired Readings: Family paired readings are strong fluency builders and involve children and parents reading together. For twenty minutes per day a child and parent read together from a book selected by the child. When the child feels he or she can read alone, he or she gives the parent a signal (e.g., a tap). When the child makes a mistake, the parent joins back in the reading. Research reveals gains in reading from students who participated in family paired readings. (Topping, 1989)

Family Paired Reading Times

Your child chooses a book he or she finds not too hard nor too easy to read. You can help your child choose a book. Have your child read one page. Your child shouldn't miss more than 1 or 2 words on a page. You and your child read together until your child signals that he or she is ready to read alone.

Your child continues to read alone until he or she makes a mistake, then you rejoin your child in the reading. Again, your child can signal you when he or she is ready to read alone again. Continue this cycle of reading for about twenty minutes. Praise your child for signaling when appropriate, trying hard to figure out unknown words, and reading smoothly and evenly. After you finish reading, talk about what was read.

Have your child retell what was read. You can provide a more accurate recap if your child misunderstood what was read. You can also expand upon what your child tells you. Encourage your child to tell you about favorite story parts, favorite characters and favorite illustrations, and why these are favorites. (Adapted from Topping, 1989)

Ten-Step Read-Aloud Planning Sequence

1. Select a book that is age appropriate.
2. Determine if the message of the book is something your child is capable of grasping.
3. Review the book to ensure that it is free of cultural bias.
4. Practice reading the book before the read-aloud time.
5. Activate the child's knowledge about the book's topic beforehand.
6. Discuss the book title and the book cover; stimulate thinking about story possibilities— Who? What? Why? Where? When?
7. Make some predictions about the story's plot.
8. During the reading, share pictures and illustrations.
9. Read with enthusiasm to bring the story to life.
10. After reading, discuss predictions you made and what actually happened.

Adapted from: Excerpt from *Dyslexia and Reading Difficulties: Research and Resource Guide for Working with All Struggling Readers*, by C.A. Spafford, G.S. Grosser, 2005 edition, p. 205-206.

Come read with us!
Visit JustTake20.org for more fun reading activities!

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